thetics of textile element **40**. Whereas a conventional upper includes various elements that stitched or adhesively joined, textile element **40** is a single, unitary element of material. From the perspective of manufacturing, utilizing multiple materials to impart different properties to an article of footwear may be an inefficient practice. By forming textile element **40** to be a single, unitary element of material, however, efficiency is increased in that upper **20** may include a single textile element, rather than numerous joined elements.

A variety of knitting processes may be utilized to form textile element **40**, as discussed above. As a specific example, a jacquard double needle-bar raschel knitting machine may be utilized to form a flat textile structure, and may also be utilized to form the textile structure to have the configuration of a spacer mesh textile. Unlike textile structure **60**, which exhibits a generally cylindrical configuration, the textile structure formed with the jacquard double needle-bar raschel knitting machine will have a flat configuration. Like textile structure **60**, however, an outline of a textile element may be imparted to the textile structure formed with the jacquard double needle-bar raschel knitting machine. That is, differences in the stitches within the textile structure may form an outline with the shape and proportions of the intended textile element. Accordingly, the textile element may be removed from the textile structure and incorporated into footwear **10**. In addition, the jacquard double needle-bar raschel knitting machine may be utilized to impart various textures, different properties, or different yarn types to the textile element. Similarly, other types of knitting, such as a flat knitting, may be utilized within the scope of the present invention to impart various textures, different properties, or different yarn types to the textile element.

The present invention is disclosed above and in the accompanying drawings with reference to a variety of embodiments. The purpose served by the disclosure, however, is to provide an example of the various features and concepts related to the invention, not to limit the scope of the invention. One skilled in the relevant art will recognize that numerous variations and modifications may be made to the embodiments described above without departing from the scope of the present invention, as defined by the appended claims.

That which is claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing an article of footwear, the method comprising steps of:

mechanically-manipulating a yarn with a circular knitting machine to form a cylindrical textile structure;

removing at least one textile element from the textile structure;

incorporating the textile element into an upper of the article of footwear.

2. The method recited in claim **1**, wherein the step of mechanically-manipulating includes utilizing a wide-tube circular knitting machine.

3. The method recited in claim **1**, wherein the step of mechanically-manipulating includes forming a texture in the cylindrical textile structure with a shape of the textile element.

4. The method recited in claim **1**, wherein the step of mechanically manipulating includes forming the textile element to include a first area and a second area with a unitary construction, the first area being formed of a first stitch configuration, and the second area being formed of a second stitch configuration that is different from the first stitch configuration to impart varying textures to a surface of the textile element.

5. The method recited in claim **1**, wherein the step of mechanically manipulating includes forming at least two textile elements in the cylindrical textile structure.

6. The method recited in claim **1**, wherein the step of mechanically manipulating includes forming apertures in the textile element.

7. The method recited in claim **1**, wherein the step of incorporating includes securing a first pair of edges of the textile element to each other to form a first seam that extends along a lower region of the upper.

8. The method recited in claim **7**, wherein the step of incorporating further includes securing a second pair of edges of the textile element to each other to form a second seam that extends along a heel region of the upper.

9. A method of manufacturing an article of footwear, the method comprising steps of:

mechanically-manipulating a yarn with a wide-tube circular knitting machine to form a textile structure having an outline of at least one textile element;

removing the textile element from the textile structure;

incorporating the textile element into an upper of the article of footwear.

10. The method recited in claim **9**, wherein the step of mechanically-manipulating includes forming a texture in the cylindrical textile structure with a shape of the textile element.

11. The method recited in claim **9**, wherein the step of mechanically manipulating includes forming the textile element to include a first area and a second area with a unitary construction, the first area being formed of a first stitch configuration, and the second area being formed of a second stitch configuration that is different from the first stitch configuration to impart varying textures to a surface of the textile element.

12. The method recited in claim **9**, wherein the step of incorporating includes securing a first pair of edges of the textile element to each other to form a first seam that extends along a lower region of the upper.

13. The method recited in claim **12**, wherein the step of incorporating further includes securing a second pair of edges of the textile element to each other to form a second seam that extends along a heel region of the upper.

14. A method of manufacturing an article of footwear, the method comprising steps of:

mechanically-manipulating a yarn with a jacquard double needle-bar raschel knitting machine to form a textile structure having an outline of at least one textile element;

removing the textile element from the textile structure;

incorporating the textile element into an upper of the article of footwear.

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